



Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

February 26, 2004

The Hon. George W. Bush
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

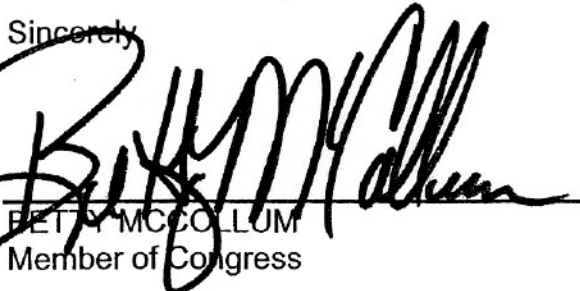
The recent comment made in the White House by Education Secretary Rod Paige in which he called the National Education Association (NEA), an association made up of 2.7 million American citizens and educators, a "terrorist organization" is intolerable and beneath the dignity of any cabinet secretary serving any president. This branding of the NEA and its membership is simply a form of intimidation and neo-McCarthyism that cannot be ignored.

We are calling for you, Mr. President, to immediately ask for Secretary Paige's resignation. It is impossible for America's education community to have confidence and trust in your administration's education spokesman when he uses speech that is intended to divide and intimidate Americans.

The education of America's children is at the forefront of our nation's domestic agenda. We need a Secretary of Education who instills confidence and trust in our public education system. America deserves a Secretary of Education who will unite children, parents, educators, administrators, school board members, state legislators and our nation's entire education community in the common cause of putting our children's future ahead of vicious name calling and deliberate intimidation.

Mr. President, again, we respectfully call upon you to immediately ask for the resignation of the Secretary of Education.

Sincerely,



BETTY MCCOLLUM
Member of Congress



TIMOTHY BISHOP
Member of Congress



RAUL GRIJALVA
Member of Congress


DONALD PAYNE
Member of Congress


BARBARA LEE
Member of Congress


SHELLEY BERKLEY
Member of Congress


DIANE WATSON
Member of Congress


JERROLD NADLER
Member of Congress


TIM RYAN
Member of Congress

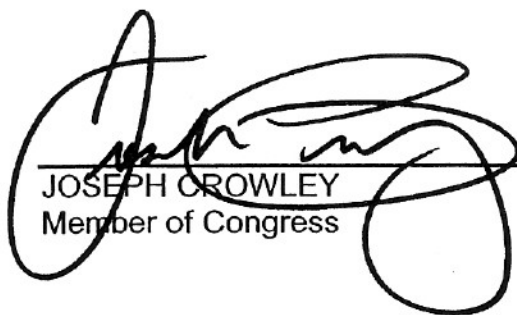

JIM MCDERMOTT
Member of Congress


RUSH HOLT
Member of Congress


ROBERT WEXLER
Member of Congress


LYNN WOOLSEY
Member of Congress


TED STRICKLAND
Member of Congress



JOSEPH CROWLEY
Member of Congress



GRACE NAPOLITANO
Member of Congress



JIM OBERSTAR
Member of Congress



ROBERT MENENDEZ
Member of Congress



TOM ALLEN
Member of Congress



EARL BLUMENAUER
Member of Congress



DENNIS KUCINICH
Member of Congress